

# SNUG HARBOR

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## ♦ Feral Cat Problem in Snug Harbor

By SUSANNA SHEEHAN

Duxbury selectmen promised to take care of a feral cat problem at the Snug Harbor waterfront after it was brought to their attention last week.

Ned Lawson, executive director of the Duxbury Bay Maritime School located in Snug Harbor, said there are about 20 feral, or wild, domestic cats that live in the area near the school and are fed by a local man. The cats are "into everything" in the school's buildings and have caused damage to school property by urinating on sails, Lawson said. The food provided for the cats by resident Charles Critch brings skunks right up to the buildings, and Lawson said he has almost stepped on one.

Lawson was concerned that the cat feces contributed to an elevated coliform problem in the harbor when there was a storm run-off. He also worried about people contracting rabies.

Lawson said he wrote the town about the cats in 1999. After that, the animal control officer attempted to trap the animals. After these efforts failed, Lawson wrote the town again in January, 2000. The response he received from Town Manager Rocco Longo was that if Critch, a town employee, was not feeding the cats during his work hours, then there was nothing the town could do to stop him. Selectmen said they would look into the problem and get back to Lawson.